



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

BRIGADIER GENERAL RUSS A. WALZ

Brigadier General Russ A. Walz is the Director of Joint Staff, South Dakota National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, Camp Rapid, SD. He serves as the principal advisor to the Adjutant General on all joint issues and policies relating to the Defense Support to Civil Authorities and Homeland Defense programs.

General Walz enlisted into the South Dakota Air National Guard in 1980. He was later commissioned through the Academy of Military Science in Knoxville, TN, earning distinguished graduate honors. He then attended Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus AFB, MS graduating in 1987.

General Walz assumed the position of Director, Joint Staff in May of 2016. Previously, he held positions of 114th Fighter Wing Commander, 114th Operations Group Commander, 175th Fighter Squadron Commander, 175th Operations Officer, 114th Operations Support Flight Commander, and Assistant Aircraft Maintenance Officer.



General Walz is a command pilot with over 3,700 total fighter hours in the A-7D and F-16C aircraft including 70 combat hours.

EDUCATION

1988 University of South Dakota with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management
1994 Squadron Officer School
1999 Air Command & Staff
2002 Air War College

ASSIGNMENTS

1. September 1980 – November 1985, Fire Protection Specialist, Joe Foss Field, SD
2. November 1985 – November 1987, Pilot Trainee, Columbus AFB, Miss.
3. November 1987 – November 1990, Pilot, Joe Foss Field, SD
4. November 1990 – February 1993, Assistant Maintenance Officer, Joe Foss Field, SD
5. February 1993 – August 1995, OIC Weapons and Tactics, Joe Foss Field, SD
6. August 1995 – August 1997, Operations Support Flight Commander, Joe Foss Field, SD
7. August 1997 – July 2000, 175th Fighter Squadron Operations Officer, Joe Foss Field, SD
8. July 2000 – July 2001, 175th Fighter Squadron Commander, Joe Foss Field, SD
9. July 2001 – March 2006, 114th Operations Group Commander, Joe Foss Field, SD
10. March 2006 – May 2016, 114th Fighter Wing Commander, Joe Foss Field, SD
11. May 2016 – Present, Director, Joint Forces, Headquarters, South Dakota National Guard, Camp Rapid, SD

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command pilot
Flight hours: More than 3,700
Aircraft flown: T-37, T-38, A-7D, F-16C
Pilot wings from: Columbus Air Force Base, MS

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit
Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Aerial Achievement Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Joint Meritorious Unit Award with one oak leaf cluster
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with six oak leaf clusters
Combat Readiness Medal with seven devices
Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster
National Defense Service Medal with one star
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Armed Forces Service Medal
Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon
Air Force Longevity Service with eight devices
Armed Forces Reserve Medal with two 'M' devices
Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon
Air Force Training Ribbon with one oak leaf cluster

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Guard Association of the United States
Air Force Association

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Distinguished Graduate, Academy of Military Science
2012 Maj. Gen. I.G. Brown Command Excellence Award

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Enlisted Sep. 6, 1980
Second Lieutenant, 07 November 1985
First Lieutenant, 05 March 1988
Captain, 07 April 1990
Major, 7 January 1995
Lieutenant Colonel, 06 March 1999
Colonel, 30 January 2003
Brigadier General, 01 May 2016

(Current as of Nov 2016)

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